



UNIVERSE

46

RATED T TEEN
DCCOMICS.COM



THE BLEEDING EDGE

NIGHTWING

WHAT
DWELLS
WITHIN--



--THE
DARK
WEB?

PERCY
MOONEYHAM
JANSON
FILARDI

THE BIGGEST STORIES.
THE BIGGEST VILLAINS.
THE BIGGEST SURPRISES.

SUPERMAN

#1

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS • IVAN REIS

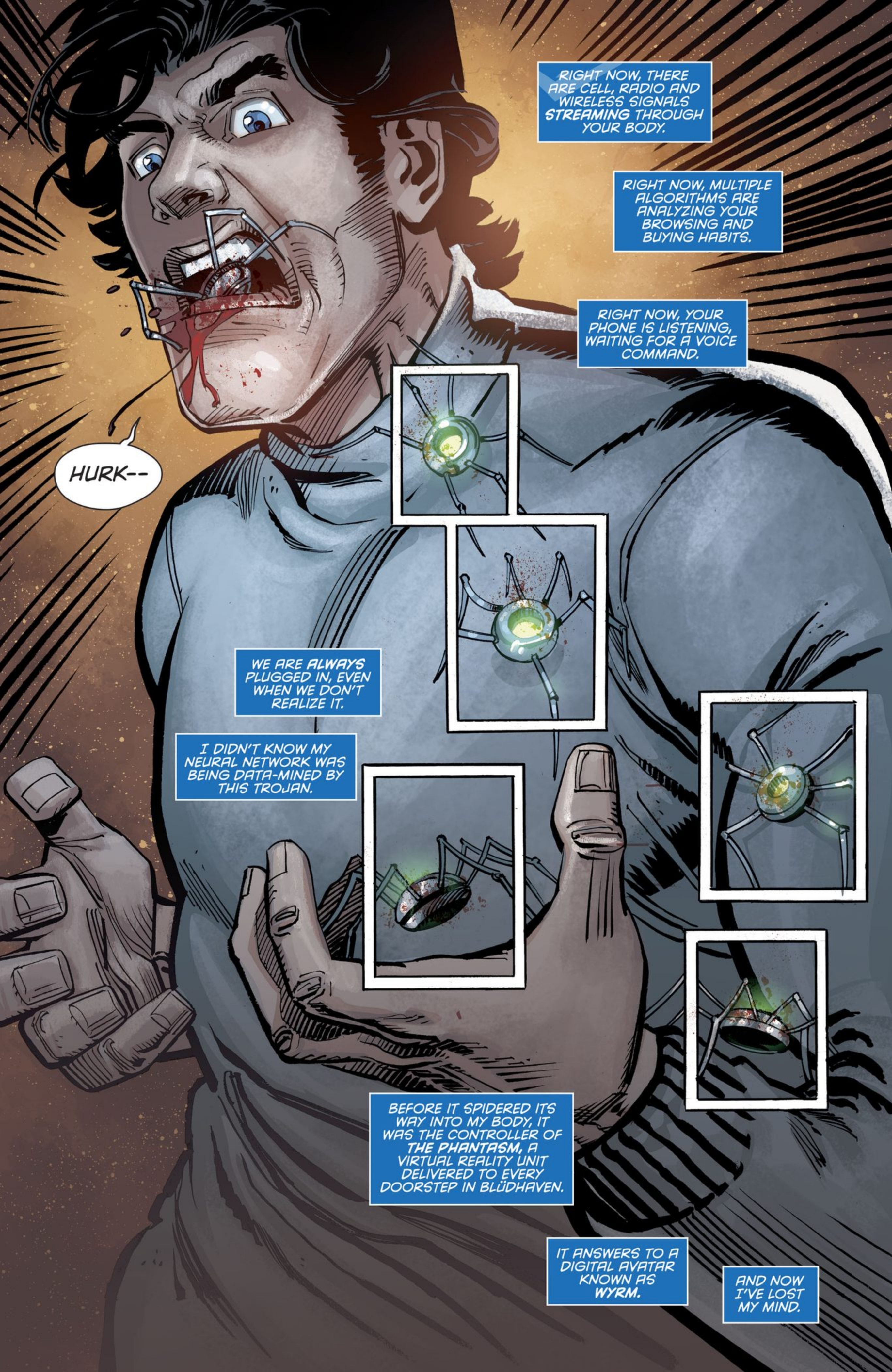
MONTHLY BEGINNING IN
JULY





RATED T TEEN
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NIGHTWING 46 PERCY • MOONEYHAM • JANSON • FILARDI

A man with dark, wavy hair and a shocked expression. His mouth is replaced by a complex, metallic, spider-like device with multiple legs and a central glowing green orb. He is wearing a grey t-shirt. The background is a dark, textured surface with some light streaks. Several inset panels show different views of the spider-like device on his chest.

RIGHT NOW, THERE
ARE CELL, RADIO AND
WIRELESS SIGNALS
STREAMING THROUGH
YOUR BODY.

RIGHT NOW, MULTIPLE
ALGORITHMS ARE
ANALYZING YOUR
BROWSING AND
BUYING HABITS.

RIGHT NOW, YOUR
PHONE IS LISTENING,
WAITING FOR A VOICE
COMMAND.

HURK--

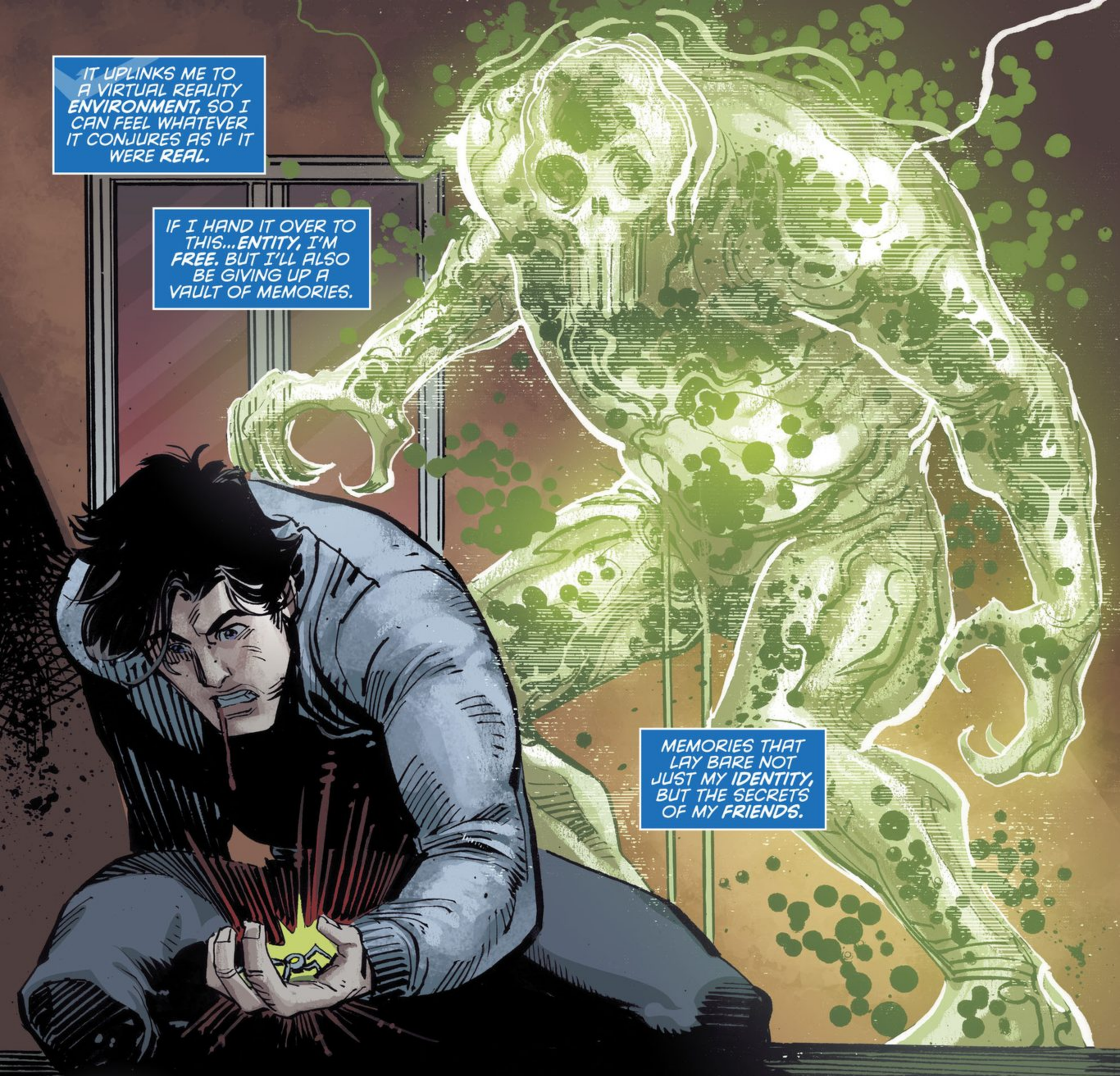
WE ARE ALWAYS
PLUGGED IN, EVEN
WHEN WE DON'T
REALIZE IT.

I DIDN'T KNOW MY
NEURAL NETWORK WAS
BEING DATA-MINED BY
THIS TROJAN.

BEFORE IT SPIDERED ITS
WAY INTO MY BODY, IT
WAS THE CONTROLLER OF
THE PHANTASM, A
VIRTUAL REALITY UNIT
DELIVERED TO EVERY
DOORSTEP IN BLÜDHAVEN.

IT ANSWERS TO A
DIGITAL AVATAR
KNOWN AS
WYRM.

AND NOW
I'VE LOST
MY MIND.



IT UPLINKS ME TO
A VIRTUAL REALITY
ENVIRONMENT, SO I
CAN FEEL WHATEVER
IT CONJURES AS IF IT
WERE REAL.

IF I HAND IT OVER TO
THIS...ENTITY, I'M
FREE. BUT I'LL ALSO
BE GIVING UP A
VAULT OF MEMORIES.

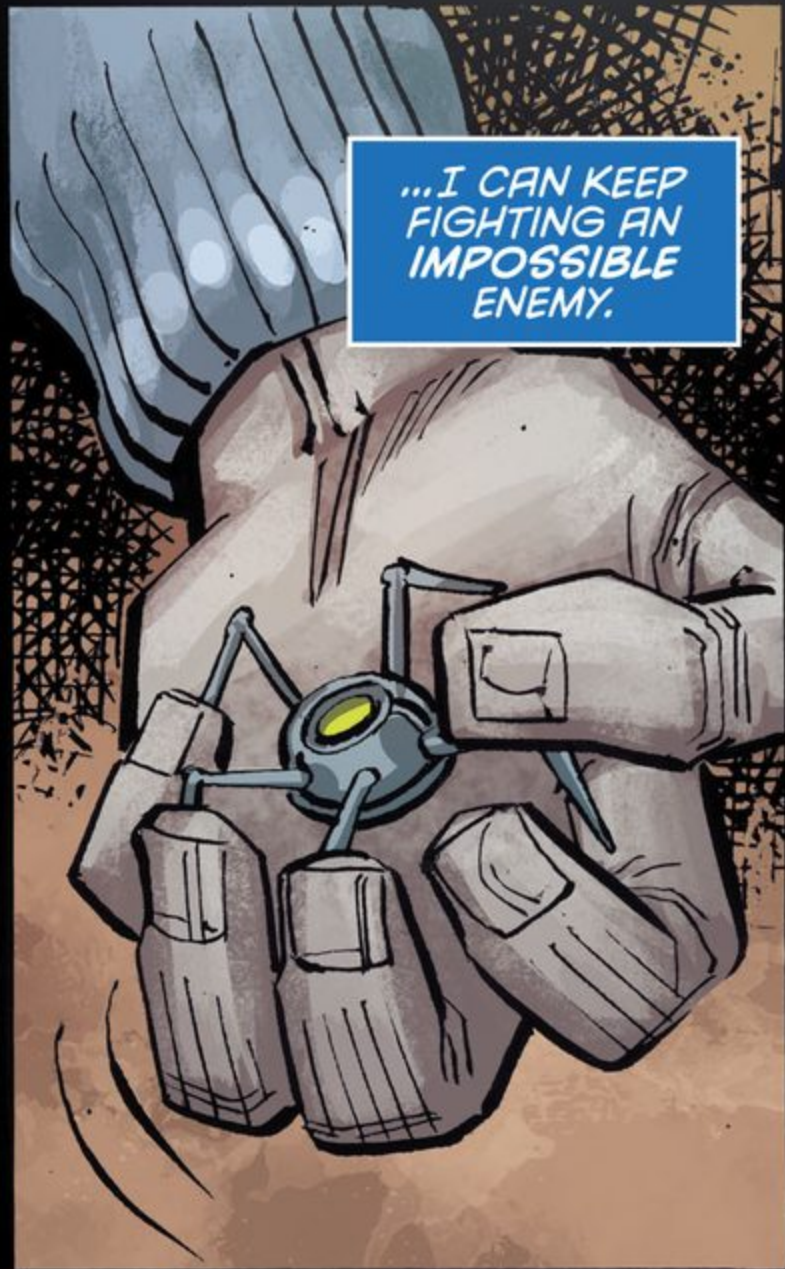
MEMORIES THAT
LAY BARE NOT
JUST MY IDENTITY,
BUT THE SECRETS
OF MY FRIENDS.



OR...



...THERE'S
ALWAYS
AN OR...



...I CAN KEEP
FIGHTING AN
IMPOSSIBLE
ENEMY.



LET'S GO.



MY BRAIN FEELS
BRUISED, AS IF IT'S A
HARD DRIVE THAT'S
HAVING TROUBLE
REBOOTING.

MAYBE...I'VE
BEEN DOING THIS
WRONG.



I CAN'T SEEM TO
HURT THIS DIGITAL
PHANTOM...BUT HE
CAN HURT ME.



WHAT IF I BORROW
A MOVE FROM WYRM'S
PLAYBOOK...



...AND GO FOR
THE BRAIN?

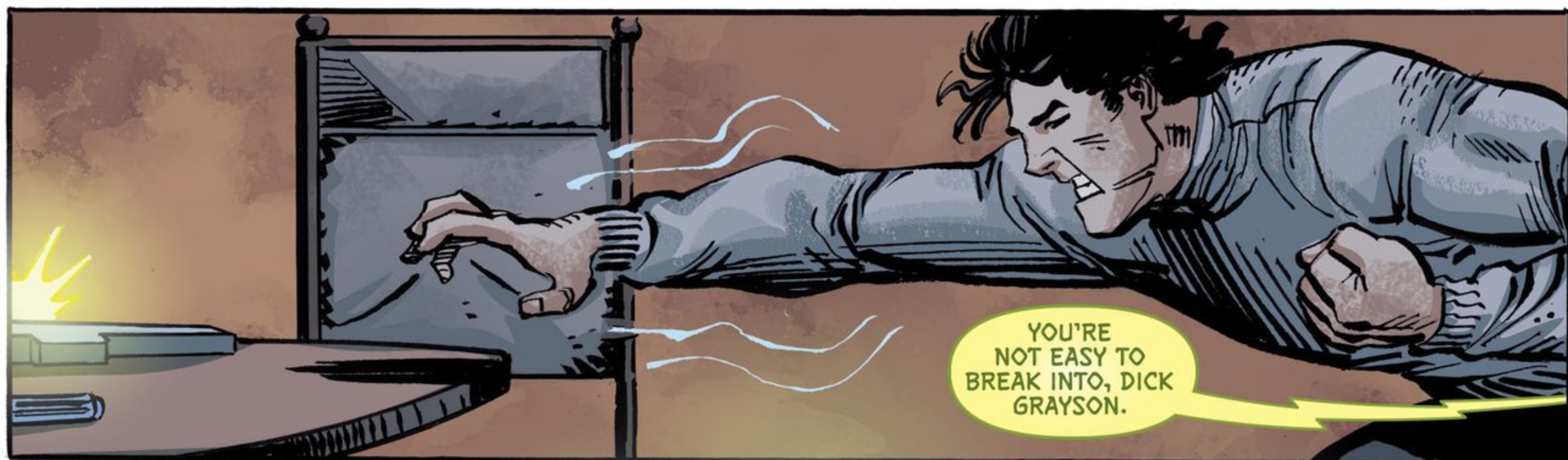


THE PHANTASM
PROJECTION
SYSTEM.



THAT'S THE SOURCE OF
THE AUGMENTED REALITY
I'M TRAPPED IN.

THE RICHER
THE BANK, THE
BIGGER THE
LOCK.



YOU'RE
NOT EASY TO
BREAK INTO, DICK
GRAYSON.



WHAT ARE
YOU SO DESPERATE
TO HIDE FROM
WYRM?



WHEN I
WAS SIX, I
STOLE A PACK
OF GUM.

WHEN
I WAS FOURTEEN,
I TOILET-PAPERED
THE GOTHAM CITY PD
HEADQUARTERS.
THERE.

NOW
SPILL ALL *YOUR*
SECRETS...



...LIKE--
WHO THE
HELL *ARE*
YOU?

I AM THE
ARCHITECT OF THIS
SIMULATION, AND AS
SUCH, I CAN SLEEVE
YOUR THROAT WITH
BEES, OR BURN YOU
WITH FIRE...



...OR MAKE
YOU WATCH YOUR
PARENTS DIE OVER
AND OVER AND
OVER.

"OR".



THERE'S ALWAYS
AN OR.



MAYBE I JUST
NEED TO GET
THE HELL OUT
OF HERE.



ESCAPE THE
PHANTASM...



...AND ESCAPE
ITS ABILITY TO
OWN ME.

I'M GOING
WIRELESS.



THANKFULLY
THERE'S A TRAPEZE
WAITING FOR ME IN
THE VOID.

BATGIRL!

I KNOW--
I'M AWESOME--
BUT DON'T THANK
ME YET.

THE BLEEDING EDGE

PART 3

BENJAMIN PERCY Writer CHRIS MOONEYHAM Artist (pgs 1-6, 11-20)

LALIT KUMAR SHARMA Artist (pgs 7-10) KLAUS JANSON with SCOTT HANNA Inks NICK FILARDI Colors

CARLOS M. MANGUAL Letters MIKE PERKINS and DAVE McCAIG Cover

JOHN ROMITA JR., DANNY MIKI and TOMEU MOREY Variant Cover

DAVE WIELGOSZ Asst. Editor KATIE KUBERT Editor JAMIE S. RICH Group Editor

Nightwing Created by MARV WOLFGAN & GEORGE PÉREZ



IN FACT,
DON'T SAY
ANYTHING
AT ALL.



BECAUSE
HE'S LISTENING.

FOLLOW
MY LEAD.



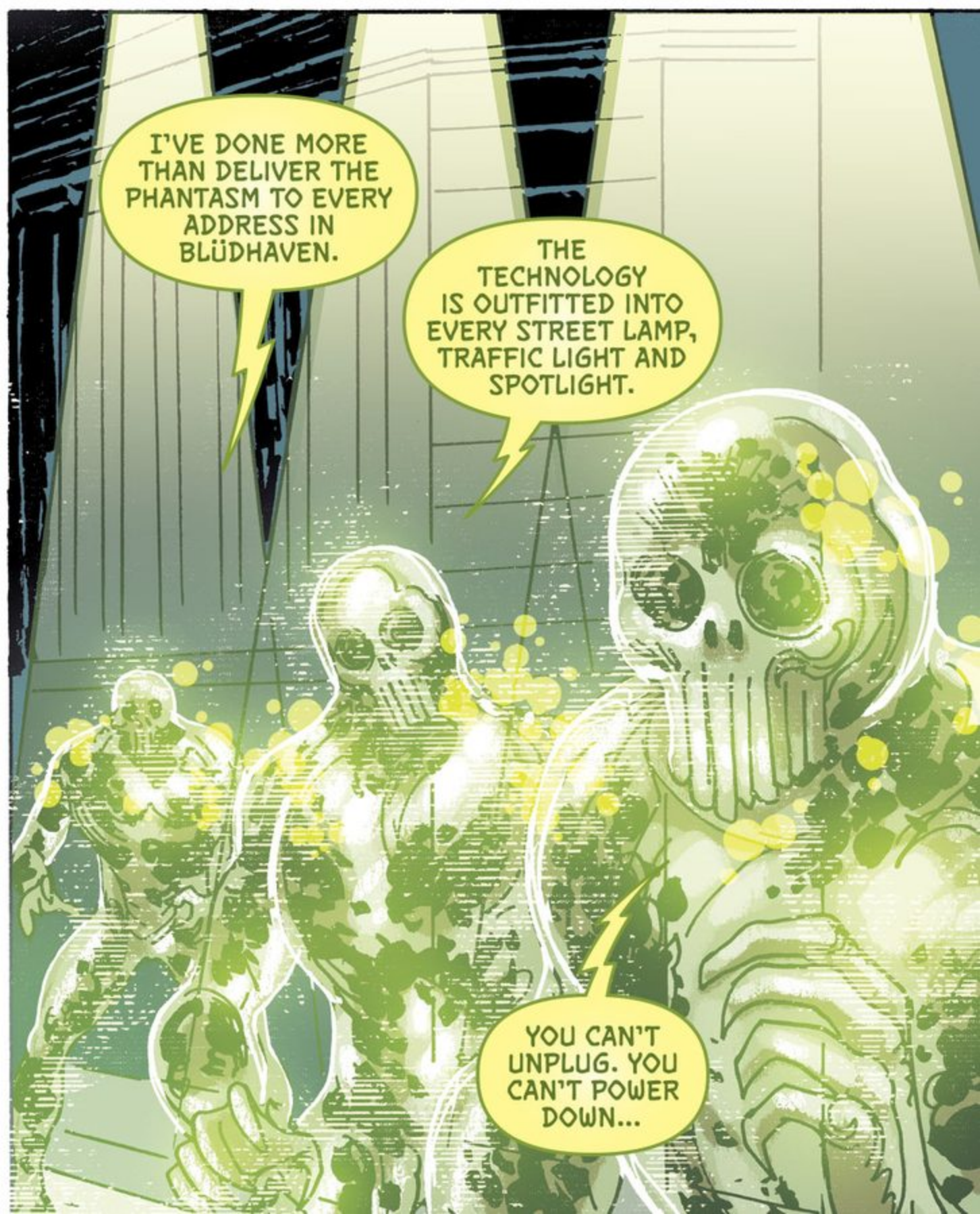
I AM SO
GLAD I SAVED
YOU FROM THAT
FALL, CITIZEN OF
BLÜDHAVEN!

IT'S A
GOOD THING
I HAPPENED
TO BE ON
PATROL!



YES!
THAT WAS
EXTREMELY...
LUCKY?!

BATGIRL...
YOU'RE AN EVEN
MORE VALUABLE DATA
MINE THAN DICK GRAYSON.
I LOOK FORWARD TO
GETTING TO KNOW
YOU BETTER.



I'VE DONE MORE
THAN DELIVER THE
PHANTASM TO EVERY
ADDRESS IN
BLÜDHAVEN.

THE
TECHNOLOGY
IS OUTFITTED INTO
EVERY STREET LAMP,
TRAFFIC LIGHT AND
SPOTLIGHT.

YOU CAN'T
UNPLUG. YOU
CAN'T POWER
DOWN...



...AS LONG AS YOU'RE LIVING IN MY VIDEO DOME.

A TIDAL WAVE OF *DIGITAL WORMS*... GREAT.



GUESSING THERE'S A *HOLE* IN HIS PLAN.

NO 5G IN THE SEWERS.

PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE NOT A HOLOGRAPH...



THAT'S A PRETTY WEAK SECURITY QUESTION. MAYBE YOU SHOULD ASK WHICH *GOTHAM ROOFTOP* YOU HAVEN'T *KISSED* ME ON?

THAT THING--*WYRM*-- HE PRETENDED TO BE *BARBARA GORDON*. TO GET TO ME.



HE WAS PHISHING YOU.

AND I ALMOST TOOK THE BAIT. HOW DID YOU EVEN KNOW TO COME?

YOU ASKED ME TO RESEARCH THE TECH COMPANY, *MIRAGE*, THAT'S SETTING UP SHOP HERE IN *BLÜDHAVEN*.

WHAT I FOUND...



...EVEN A TECH NERD LIKE ME IS READY TO KILL MY CELL PHONE AND HIDE IN A CAVE.



MIRAGE BEGAN AS A DIME- A-DOZEN TECH START-UP THAT FOCUSED ON *ONLINE PSYCHOANALYTICS*.

STUDYING DATA THAT WOULD PREDICT AND EXPLOIT BEHAVIOR.



AND NOW, THEY'RE SPONSORING THE REDEVELOPMENT OF BLÜDHAVEN. WHAT HAPPENED IN BETWEEN?

THEIR FUNDING DIDN'T COME FROM ADS. AND IT DIDN'T COME FROM SALES.

IT CAME FROM A *SINGLE INVESTOR*...



...ON THE *DARK WEB*.

AND NOW, THE VERY INFRASTRUCTURE OF BLÜDHAVEN APPEARS TO BE TANGLED UP IN THIS *MIRAGE*.



CAN WE PLEASE GO BACK TO THE DAYS WHEN ALL YOU NEEDED TO BE A HERO WAS A *GRAPPLING HOOK* AND A TIRELESS SUPPLY OF *PUNCHES*?

NORMALLY I WOULD CALL YOU A *MOTHBALLY GRANDPA*, BUT RIGHT NOW...



SPEAKING OF MOTHBALLS...

TAK
TAK

ROBIN



YOUR PASSCODE IS "*ROBIN*"? REALLY? YOU NEEDED TO UPDATE THAT, LIKE, THIRTY YEARS AGO.

YOU CAN TAKE THE MAN OUT OF GOTHAM, BUT...



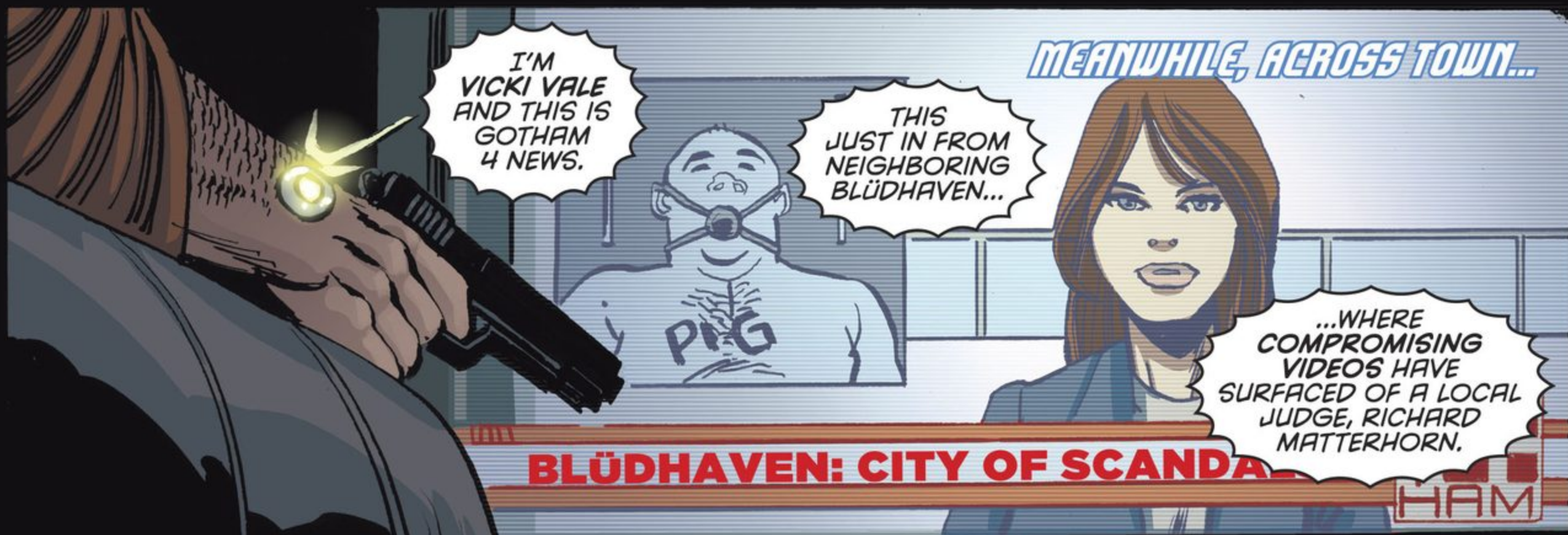
...YOU
CAN'T TAKE
GOTHAM
OUT OF THE
MAN.



AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU
WERE TRYING TO KEEP
THINGS **SIMPLE.**

I AM.
BUT IF THERE'S
ANYTHING BATS TAUGHT
ME...IT'S TO ALWAYS HAVE
A **CONTINGENCY**
PLAN.





MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN...

I'M
VICKI VALE
AND THIS IS
GOTHAM
4 NEWS.

THIS
JUST IN FROM
NEIGHBORING
BLÜDHAVEN...

...WHERE
COMPROMISING
VIDEOS HAVE
SURFACED OF A LOCAL
JUDGE, RICHARD
MATTERHORN.

BLÜDHAVEN: CITY OF SCANDAL

HAM

WE
REACHED OUT
TO MATTERHORN
FOR COMMENT.

WHILE
HE REFUSED AN
INTERVIEW, HE DID
RELEASE A STATEMENT
REQUESTING THAT
HIS PRIVACY BE
RESPECTED.

SOURCES
CLOSE TO THE
JUDGE TELL US HIS
WIFE HAS MOVED
OUT.

MATTERHORN
VOLUNTARILY WENT
ON LEAVE FROM THE
CITY COURT.



IN OTHER
BLÜDHAVEN NEWS, THE
INTERIM MAYOR WILL BE
HOLDING WHAT HE CALLS
A GAME-CHANGING PRESS
CONFERENCE TOMORROW
ABOUT HIS PLANS FOR
REDEVELOPING
THE CITY...

...WHAT'S
BEING CALLED
BLÜDHAVEN
2.0.

KNOW
THAT I'LL
BE ON-SITE,
REPORTING TO
YOU LIVE.

LATER.

LNNNGHH...

...YOU
DRESSED
ME?

NOTHING
I HAVEN'T
SEEN BEFORE...
DICK.

AND
HONESTLY,
YOUR OTHER
CLOTHES SMELLED
LIKE GYM BUTT.

FEELING A LITTLE
TOP-HEAVY,
BABS.

THE
CONTROLLER
LODGED ITSELF
NEAR YOUR **BRAIN
STEM**. I CAN'T
GET IT OUT.

SO
I COBBLED
TOGETHER A DEVICE
THAT'S BOTH AN
INHIBITOR...

...AND I GUESS YOU COULD
CALL THEM...**TRUTH
GOGGLES?**

YOU
CAN TOGGLE
BACK AND FORTH
BETWEEN REALITY AND
VIRTUAL REALITY. YOU
CONTROL WHAT
YOU SEE.



THIS COMPLETELY SUCKS. BUT THANKS. YOU'RE A GENIUS.

DON'T MAKE ME BLUSH OR I'LL PUNCH-TAZE YOU AGAIN.

HOW'S YOUR BRAIN, BY THE WAY?

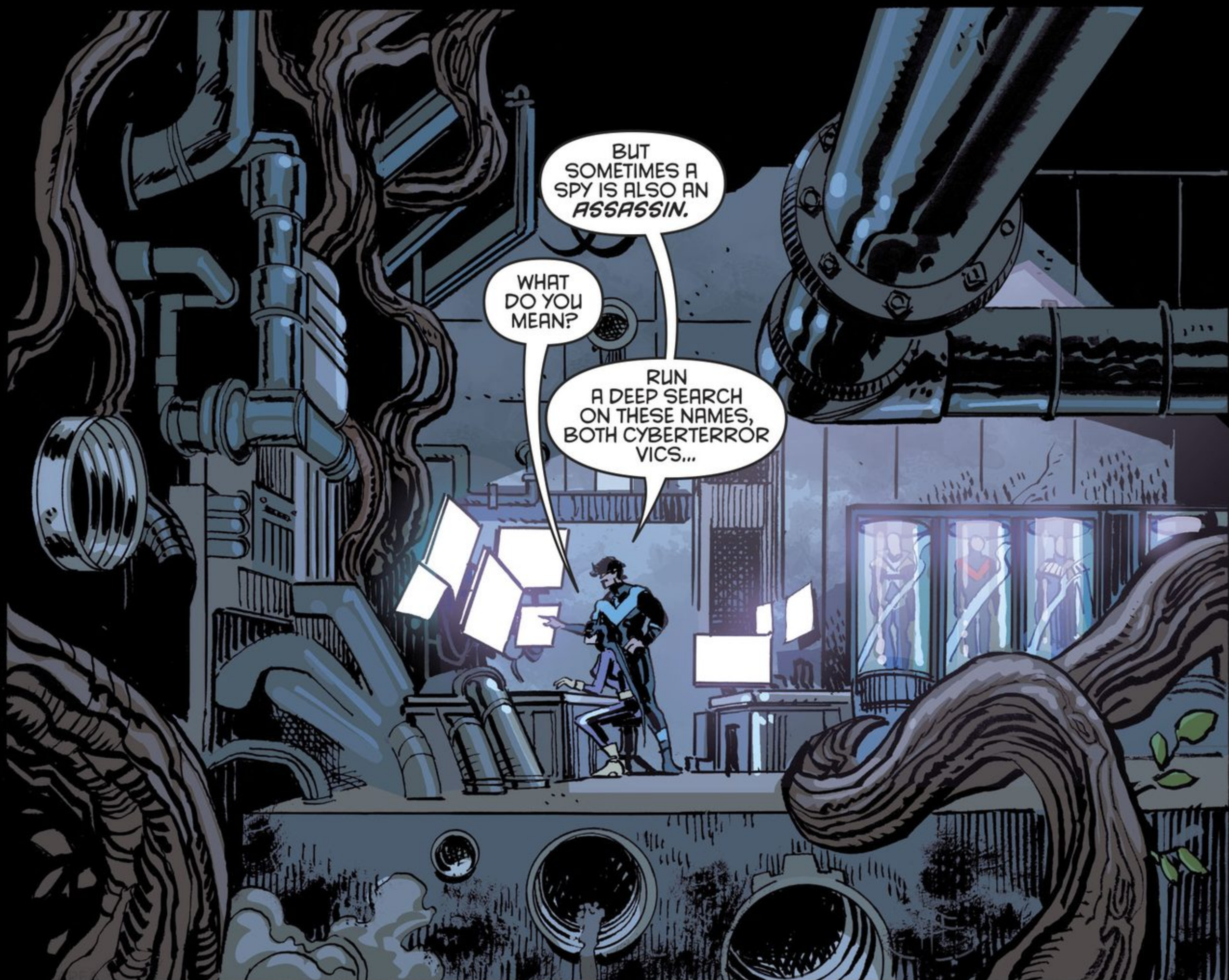
A LITTLE SHORT-CIRCUIT, BUT GOOD OTHERWISE. I GUESS I'M LUCKY TO REMEMBER ANYTHING.

MALWARE CAN SLOW DOWN A HARD DRIVE AND CREATE GAPS TO HIDE ITSELF, BUT IT USUALLY ISN'T THERE TO ERASE.

IT *STEALS* EVEN AS IT LEAVES EVERYTHING BEHIND.

PHANTASM WANTS TO REMAIN UNDETECTED WHILE BLUDHAVEN GIVES UP ITS SECRETS.

IT'S A SPY.



BUT SOMETIMES A SPY IS ALSO AN ASSASSIN.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

RUN A DEEP SEARCH ON THESE NAMES, BOTH CYBERTERROR VICS...



...FRANKIE SORVINO.



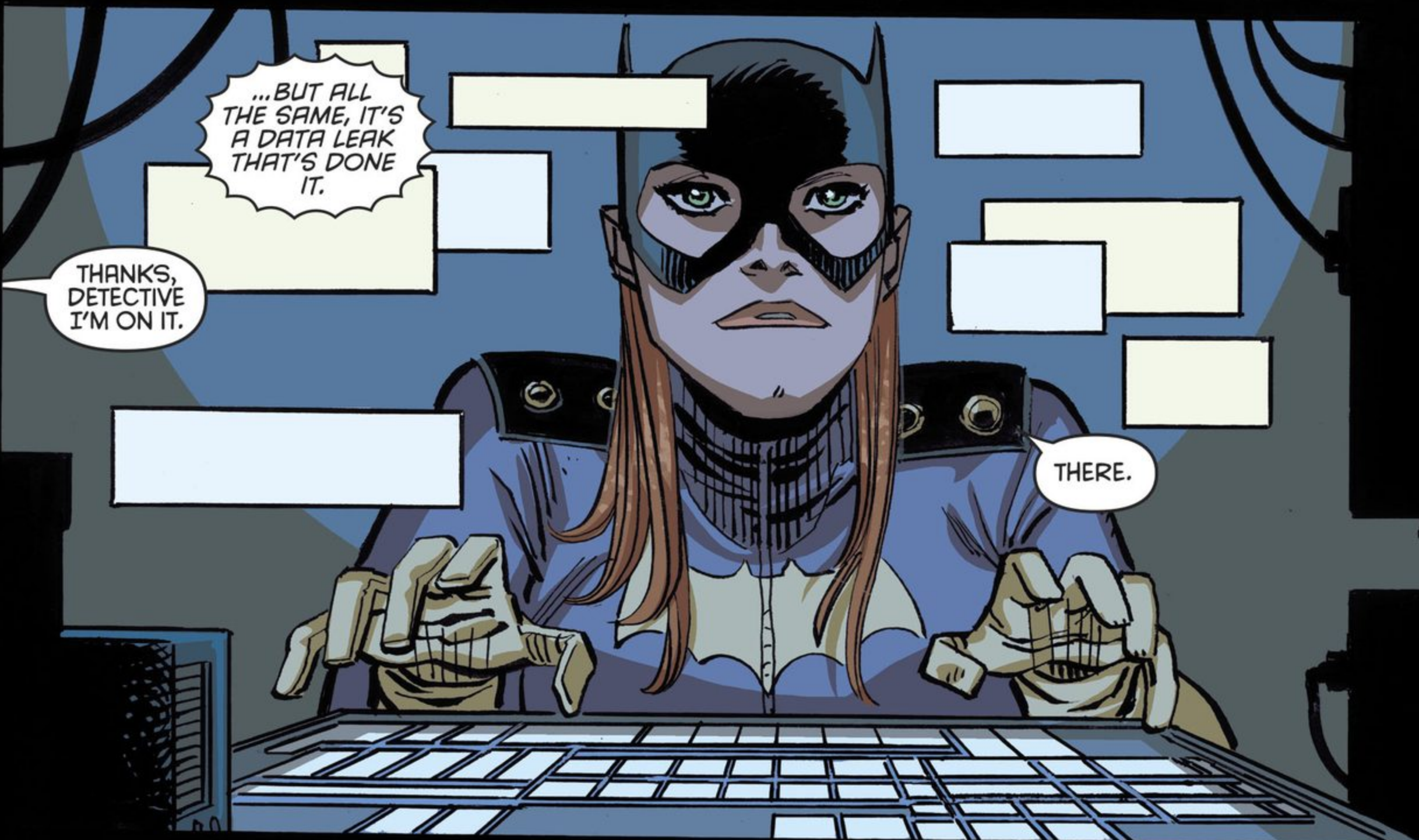
JASON HOROWITZ.

INCOMING CALL: DETECTIVE SVOBODA, GCPD

GOT ANOTHER ONE FOR YOU, NIGHTY NIGHT.



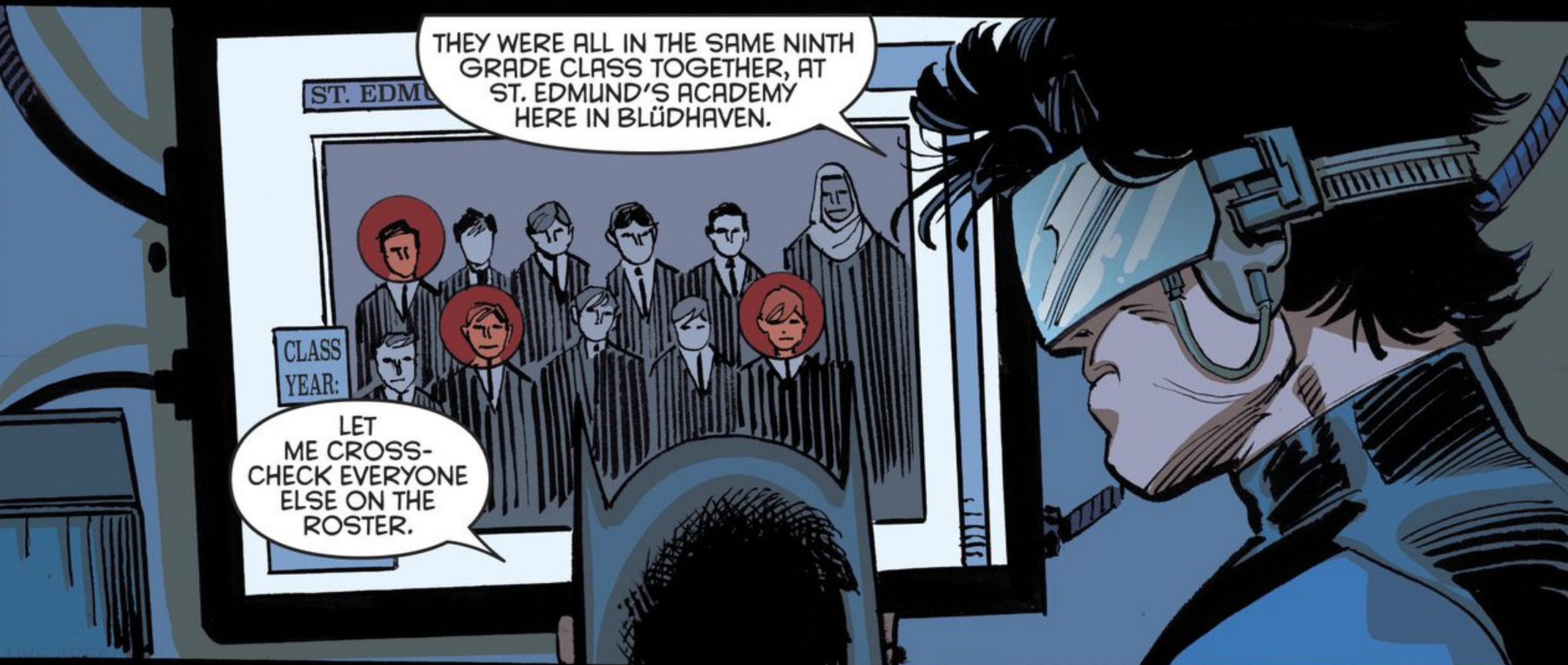
JUDGE RICHARD MATTERHORN. NOT SURE WHETHER TO CALL IT A SUICIDE OR A MURDER...



...BUT ALL THE SAME, IT'S A DATA LEAK THAT'S DONE IT.

THANKS, DETECTIVE I'M ON IT.

THERE.



THEY WERE ALL IN THE SAME NINTH GRADE CLASS TOGETHER, AT ST. EDMUND'S ACADEMY HERE IN BLÜDHAVEN.

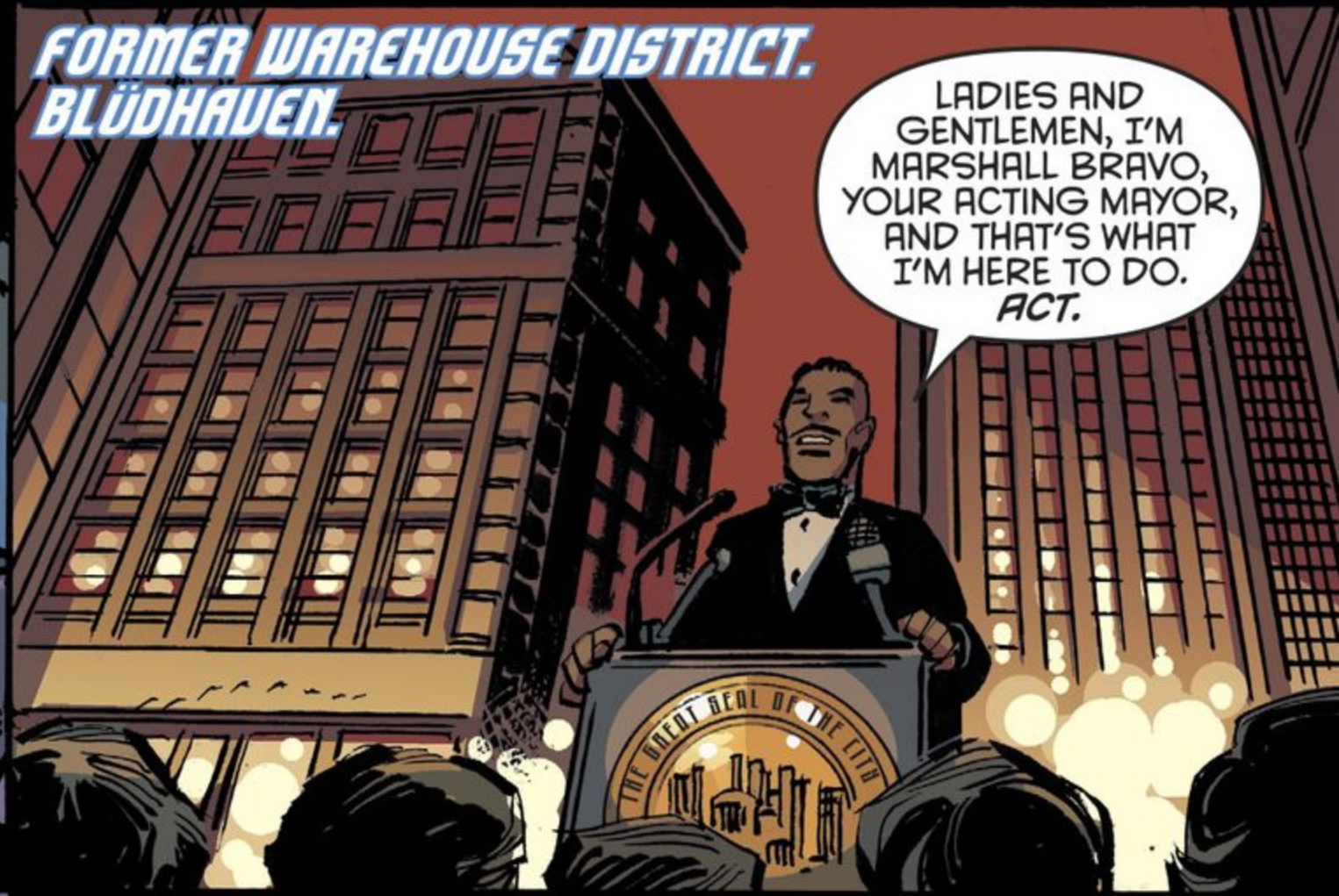
CLASS YEAR:

LET ME CROSS-CHECK EVERYONE ELSE ON THE ROSTER.

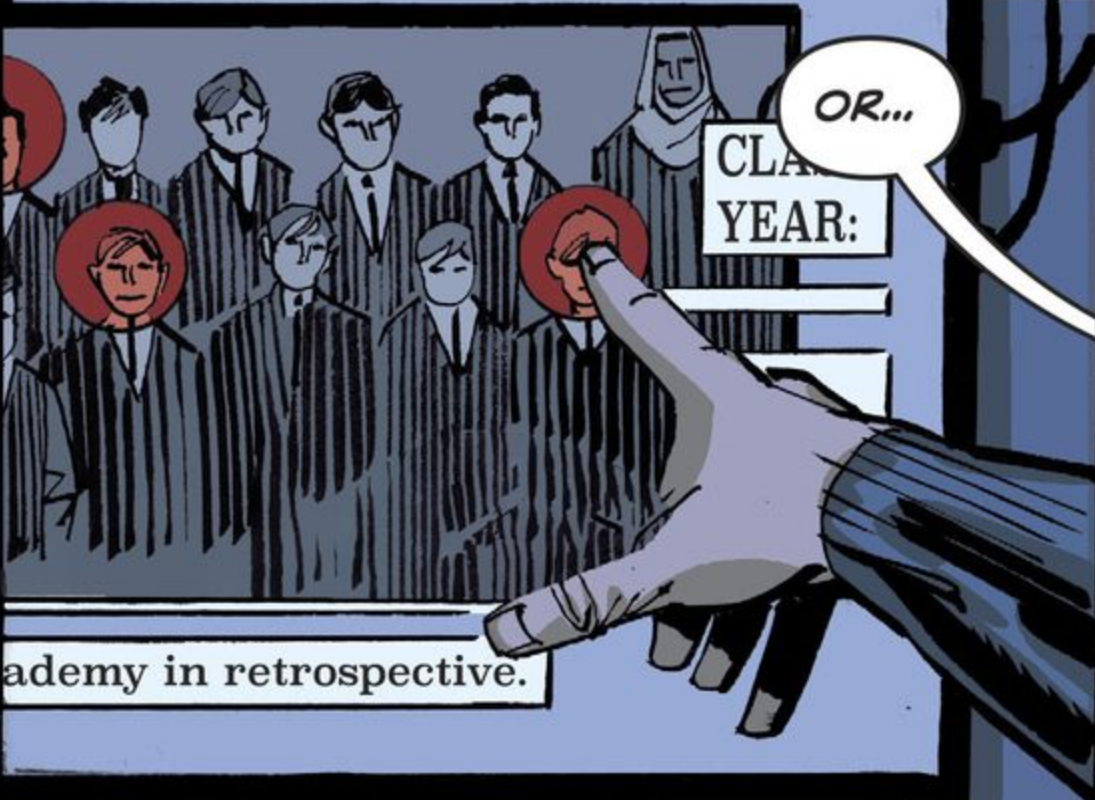


MAYBE THEY'RE *ALL* IN DANGER.

**FORMER WAREHOUSE DISTRICT.
BLUDHAVEN.**



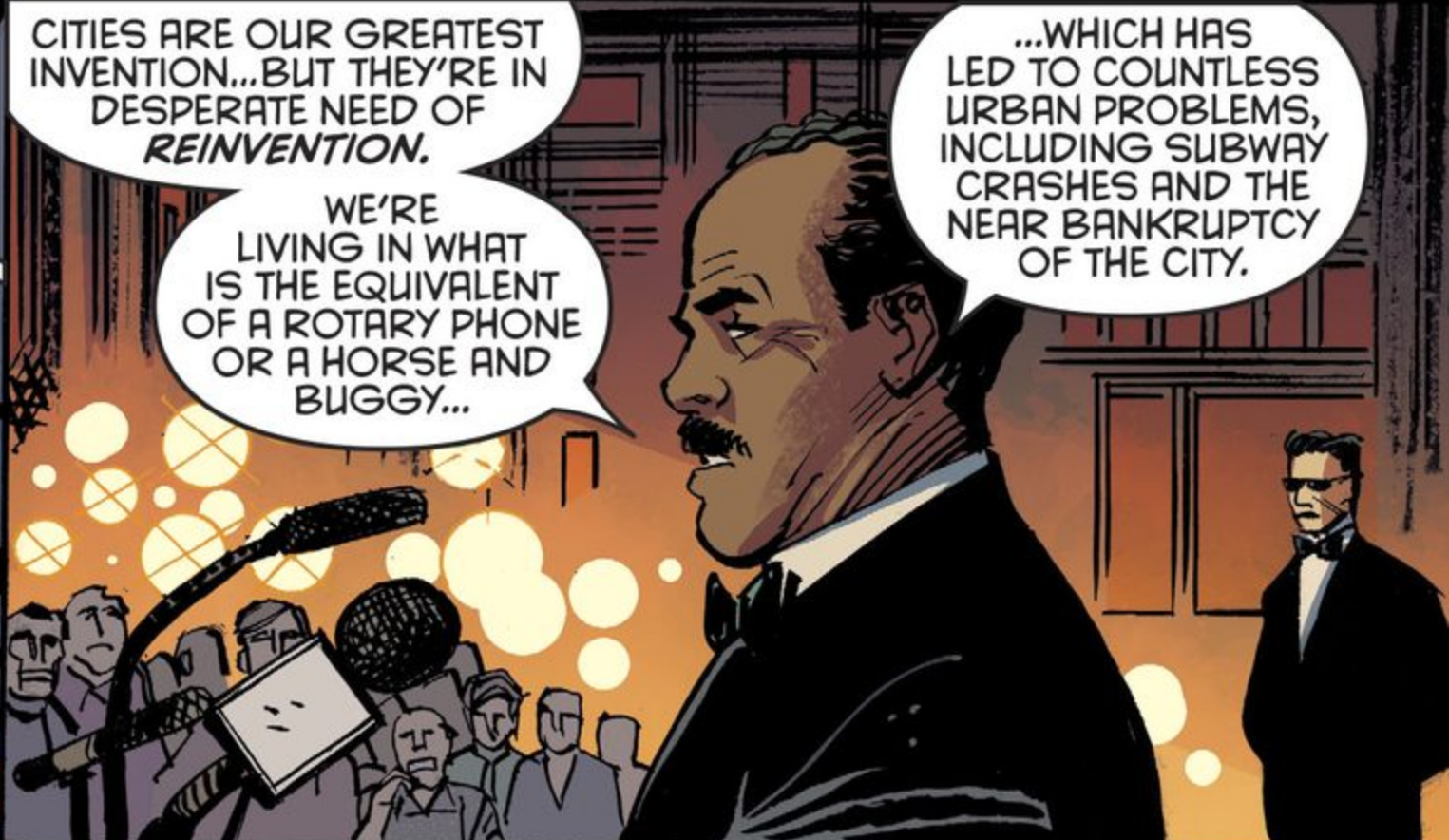
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I'M MARSHALL BRAVO, YOUR ACTING MAYOR, AND THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE TO DO. *ACT.*



OR...

CLAP
YEAR:

ademy in retrospective.



CITIES ARE OUR GREATEST INVENTION...BUT THEY'RE IN DESPERATE NEED OF *REINVENTION.*

WE'RE LIVING IN WHAT IS THE EQUIVALENT OF A ROTARY PHONE OR A HORSE AND BUGGY...

...WHICH HAS LED TO COUNTLESS URBAN PROBLEMS, INCLUDING SUBWAY CRASHES AND THE NEAR BANKRUPTCY OF THE CITY.



"OR"?

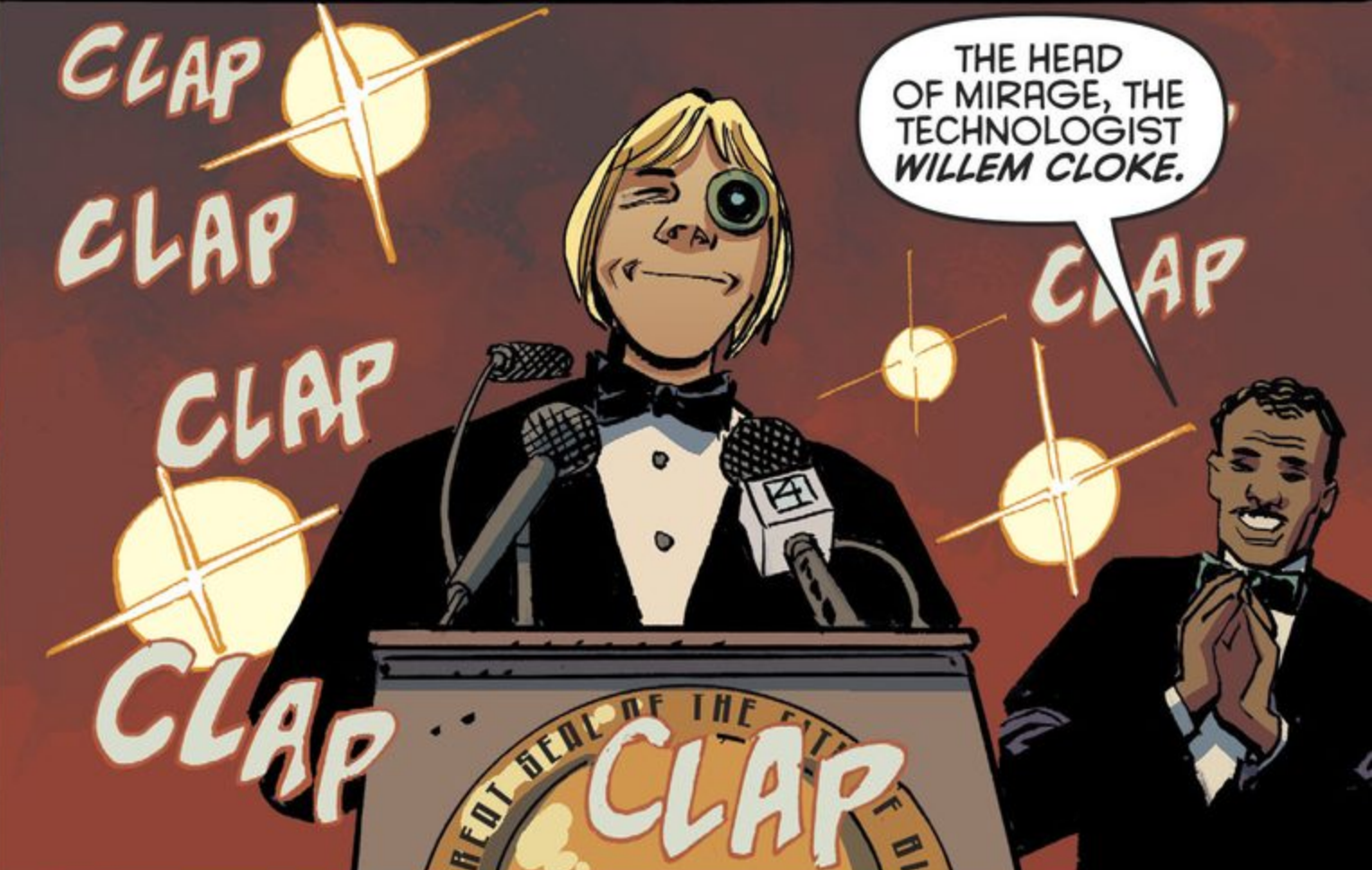


IT'S TIME FOR A 21ST CENTURY UPGRADE. THINK OF IT AS BLUDHAVEN 2.0.

I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOMEONE SPECIAL-- THE *BRAINPOWER* BEHIND THIS EFFORT AT TECHNO-URBANISM.



OR MAYBE ONE OF THEM *IS* THE DANGER.



CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

THE HEAD OF MIRAGE, THE TECHNOLOGIST *WILLEM CLOKE.*

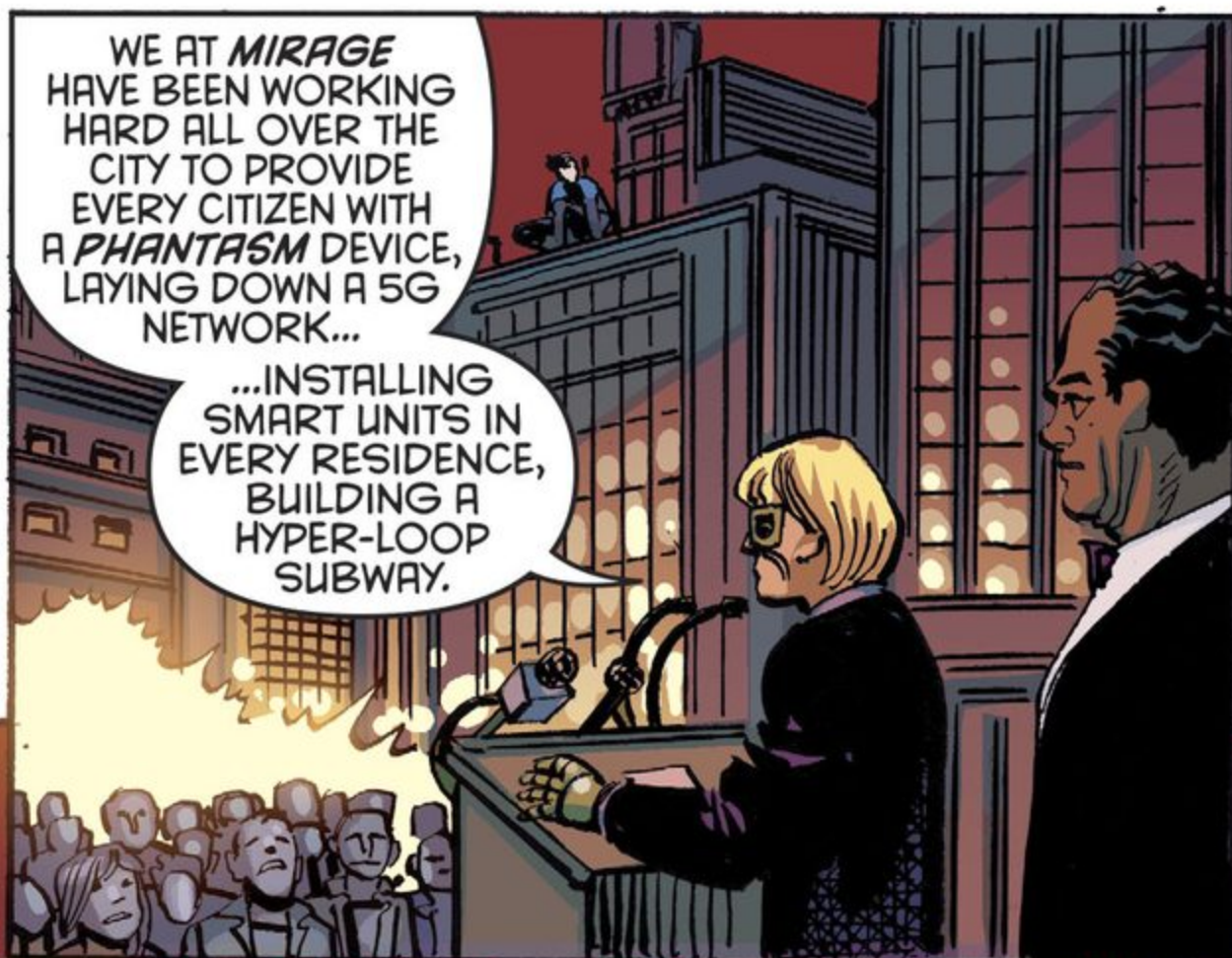
CLAP



WHEN YOU LOOK AROUND BLÜDHAVEN, WHAT DO YOU SEE?

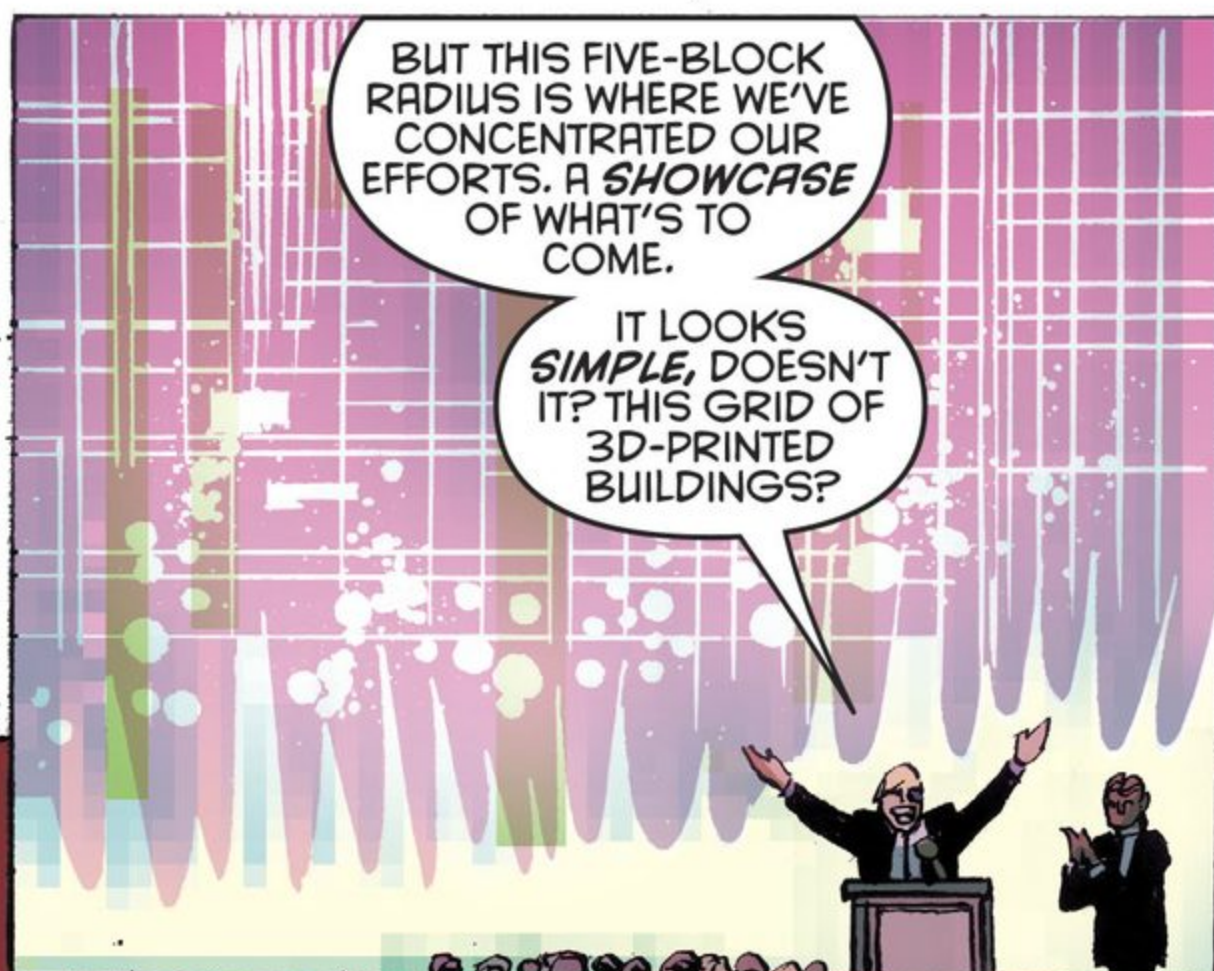
TRASH BAGS FLUTTERING LIKE GHOSTS. GLASS SPARKLING IN THE GUTTERS. THE ONLY COLOR COMES FROM THE NEON-BRIGHT CASINOS OR THE GRAFFITI SPRAYED ON AN ALLEY WALL.

THAT'S THE *PAST*. THIS... IS THE *FUTURE*.



WE AT *MIRAGE* HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD ALL OVER THE CITY TO PROVIDE EVERY CITIZEN WITH A *PHANTASM* DEVICE, LAYING DOWN A 5G NETWORK...

...INSTALLING SMART UNITS IN EVERY RESIDENCE, BUILDING A HYPER-LOOP SUBWAY.



BUT THIS FIVE-BLOCK RADIUS IS WHERE WE'VE CONCENTRATED OUR EFFORTS. A *SHOWCASE* OF WHAT'S TO COME.

IT LOOKS *SIMPLE*, DOESN'T IT? THIS GRID OF 3D-PRINTED BUILDINGS?

BUT LOOKS CAN BE *DECEIVING*.

IMAGINE IF YOUR HOUSE GOT A FRESH COAT OF PAINT EVERY DAY. IMAGINE IF EVERYONE HAD A CORNER OFFICE.

IMAGINE IF YOUR CITY WAS WHATEVER YOU *WANTED* IT TO BE. AN URBAN CONTROL SYSTEM. AN OPTIMIZED ENVIRONMENT. CONSTANTLY *REDEVELOPED* FROM THE INTERNET UP.

WHAT THE...

...I THOUGHT I
KNEW WILLEM. I
THOUGHT I KNEW
BL ÜDHAVEN, TOO.



BUT NOTHING IS
WHAT IT SEEMS
ANYMORE.



WE'RE GOING
TO INFILTRATE
THE BRAIN OF THIS
THING. GO BEYOND
THE FIREWALL.



BABS IS HIDDEN
WITH VICKI VALE
AND THE OTHER
JOURNALISTS...



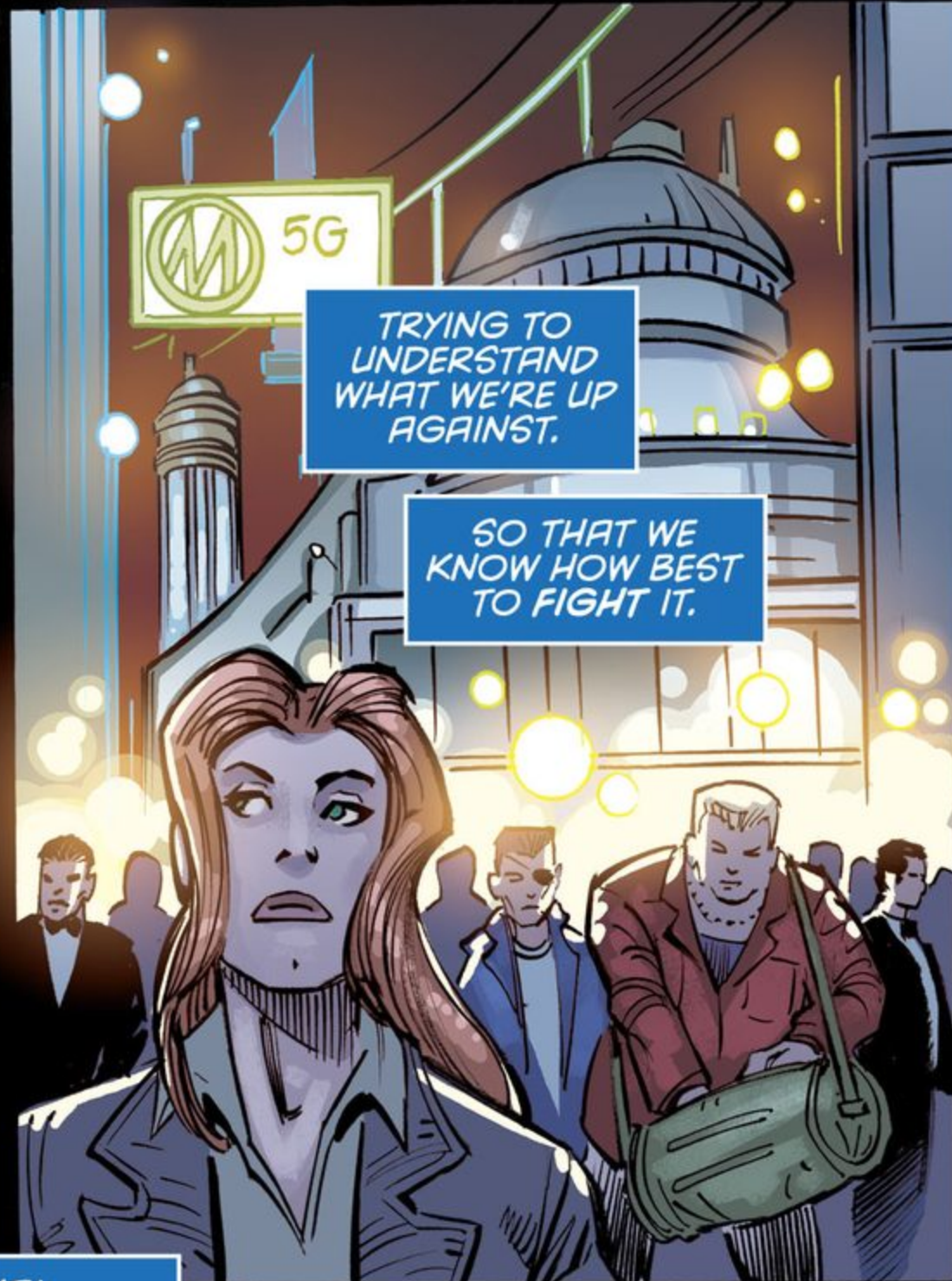
...AND I HAVE A
FLASH DRIVE TO
PORT INTO THE
NETWORK.





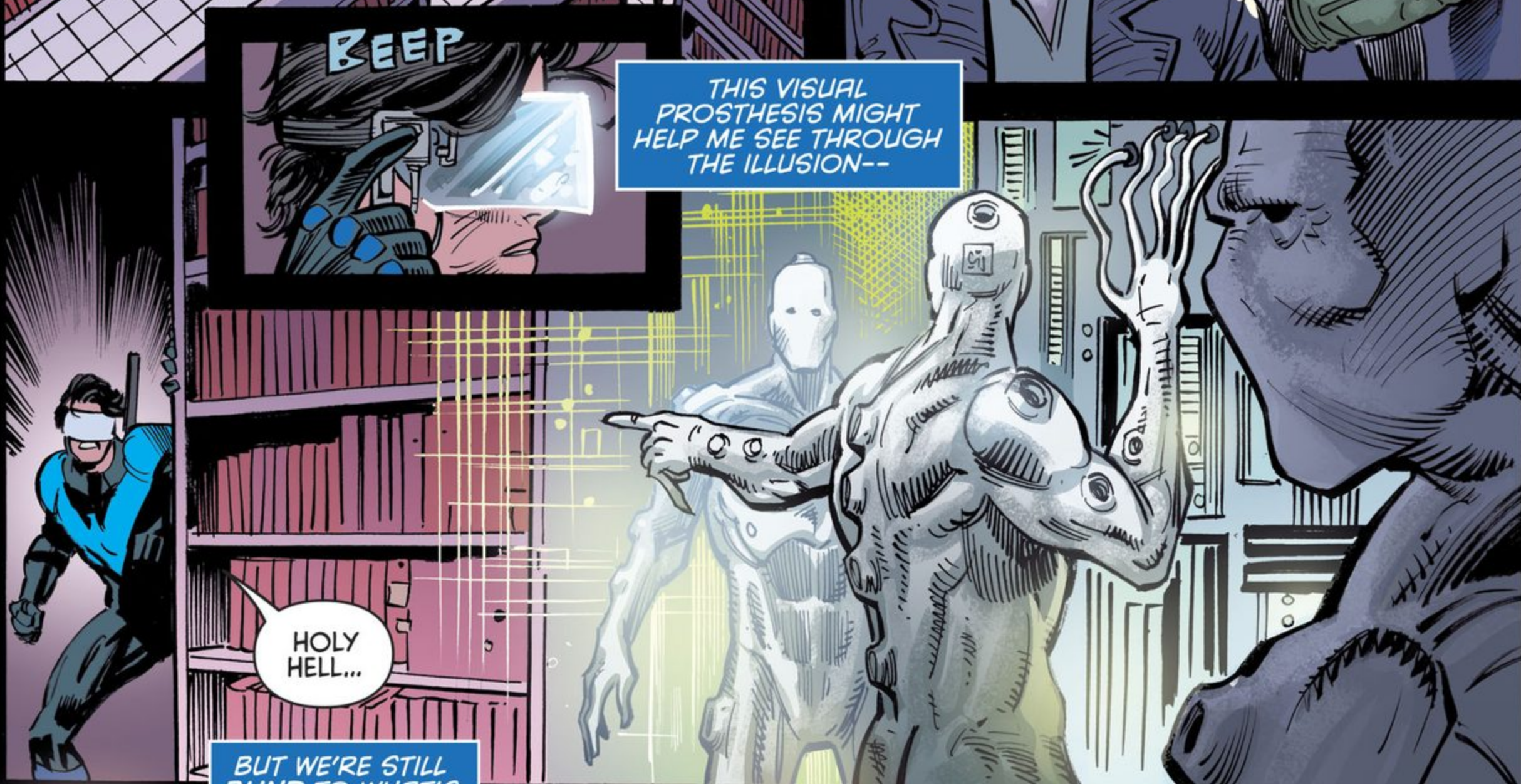
WE'RE TROJANS
OF A DIFFERENT
SORT.

BREAKING IN.
GATHERING
DATA.



TRYING TO
UNDERSTAND
WHAT WE'RE UP
AGAINST.

SO THAT WE
KNOW HOW BEST
TO FIGHT IT.

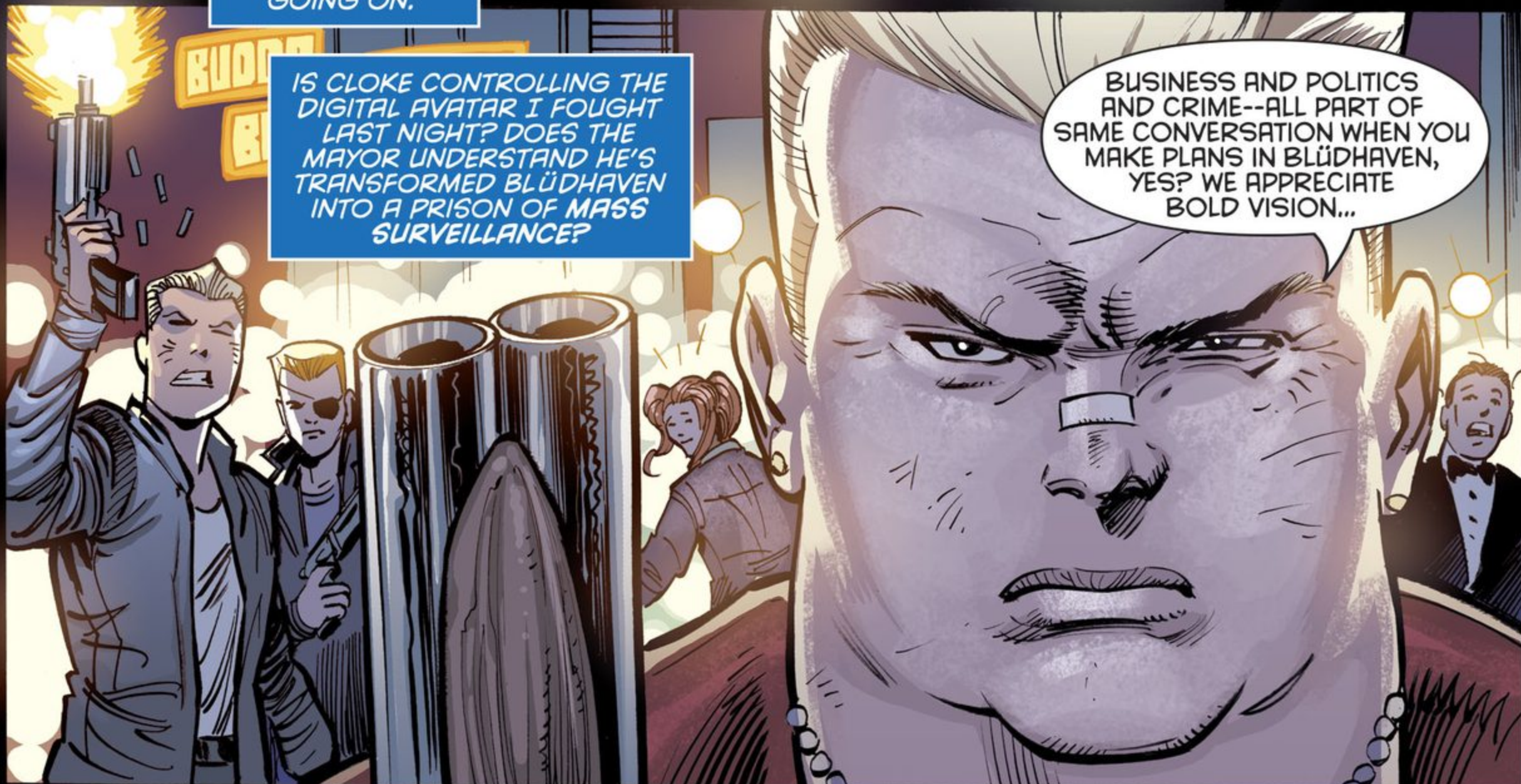


KEEP

THIS VISUAL
PROSTHESIS MIGHT
HELP ME SEE THROUGH
THE ILLUSION--

HOLY
HELL...

BUT WE'RE STILL
BLIND TO WHAT'S
GOING ON.



IS CLOKE CONTROLLING THE
DIGITAL AVATAR I FOUGHT
LAST NIGHT? DOES THE
MAYOR UNDERSTAND HE'S
TRANSFORMED BLÜDHAVEN
INTO A PRISON OF MASS
SURVEILLANCE?

BUSINESS AND POLITICS
AND CRIME--ALL PART OF
SAME CONVERSATION WHEN YOU
MAKE PLANS IN BLÜDHAVEN,
YES? WE APPRECIATE
BOLD VISION...



NEXT: TERMINAL CITY

THE CORRUPTION OF
THE CENTRAL POWER
BATTERY!

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GREEN LANTERNS

EVIL'S MIGHT

DC
UNIVERSE

WRITTEN BY **DAN JURGEN**
ILLUSTRATED BY **MIKE PERKINS**

THE NEW CREATIVE TEAM STARTS IN #50

JULY 2018

BREAKING DOWN

A PAGE

Joëlle Jones takes us inside her creative process for a page from CATWOMAN #1!



1 JOËLLE JONES ON HER SCRIPT PROCESS:

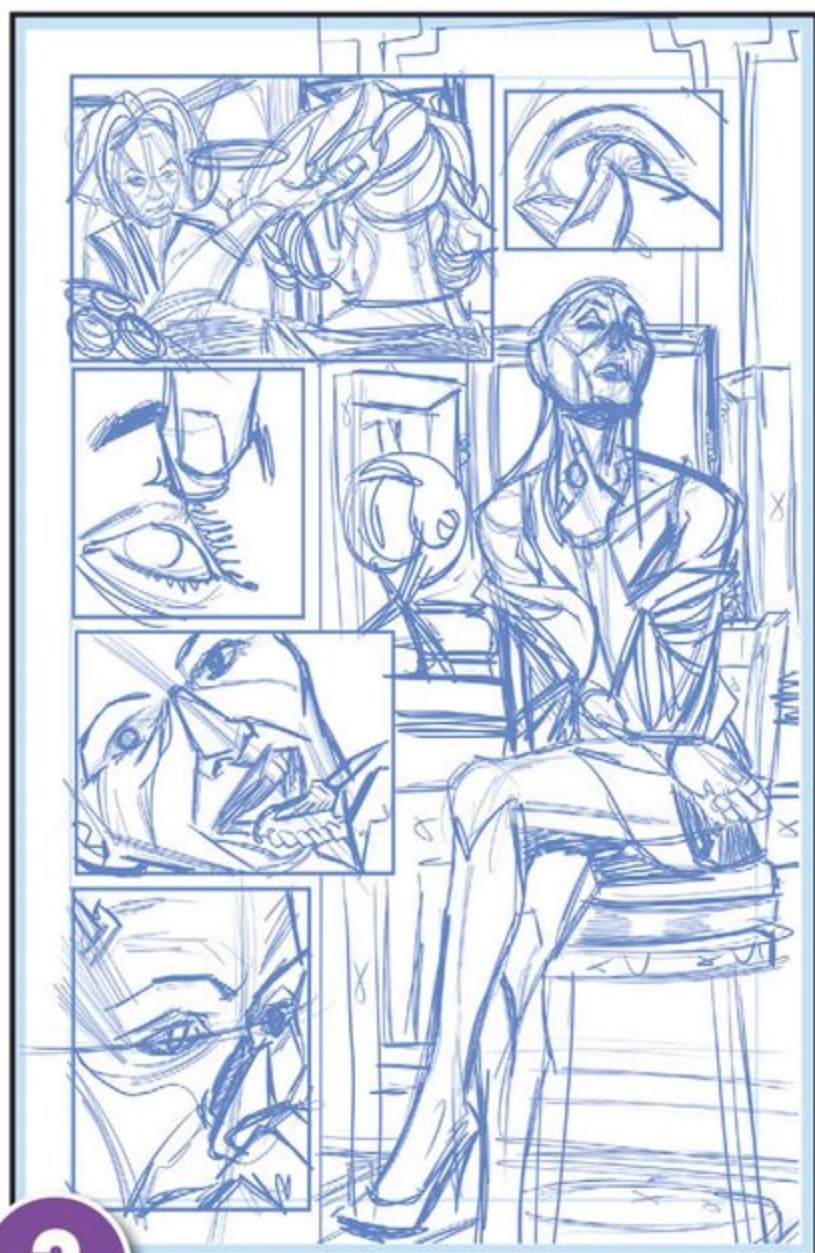
"Since I write for myself to draw, I tend to plot in broader strokes, focusing on the specific scenes, how many beats each one needs, and the emotional space the story requires. I use the book map so I can look at each page turn and know where my reveals are. In this case, I knew I wanted to showcase the truth of our new villain, and that she should have the whole page to herself."

2 JOËLLE JONES ON PENCILS:

"Much of the finer details are ironed out when I do layouts and then pencils. That's where a lot of the real writing is for me. Most of the female villains at DC are really sexy, so I wanted my bad guy to be someone who was really grotesque, who had ruined herself with surgery and drugs."

3 JOËLLE JONES ON INKING:

"All the pacing here was really dictated by the details. I wanted to show her take herself apart piece by piece. Inking is where I dig into the nitty-gritty and go in heavy on the detail." ■



2



3

CHECK OUT
CATWOMAN
#1
ON SALE NOW!

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